

REMARKS

Claims 16-25 are presented for consideration, with claim 16 being independent.

Claims 16, 18 and 20 have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

All of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Iwai et al. '522. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 of Applicant's invention relates to an anti-vibration apparatus comprised of a table, a pneumatic spring for applying a force to the table, and an electromagnetic actuator for applying a force to the table. As amended, a first generator generates a driving signal for the electromagnetic actuator based on at least one of a target position and a target speed of a movable object which is supported by the table and movable relative to the table.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, the electromagnetic actuator is driven on the basis of at least one of a target position and a target speed of a movable object supported by, and movable relative to, the table. In this manner, a high performance anti-vibration apparatus can be provided.

The Iwai et al. '522 patent relates to an anti-vibration apparatus that uses a feedback loop based on vibration information from an anti-vibration table. As shown in Fig. 15, table 101 is supported on a damper support leg 103. Feedback devices 117 are arranged in correspondence with vertical and horizontal directions of each damper support leg. The feedback device includes vertical and horizontal driving pneumatic springs 104, vertical and horizontal vibration sensors 105, and vertical and horizontal position sensors 106.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, the Iwai et al. '522 patent does not teach or suggest, among other features, generating a driving signal based on at least one of a target position and a target speed of a movable object which is supported by the table and movable relative to the table. The Office Action asserts that Iwai et al. '522 provides a first generator which generates a driving signal for the electromagnetic actuator based on at least one of a target position and a target speed with respect to a movable object on a table, citing column 3, lines 49-51. In response to this assertion, it is respectfully submitted that the feedback devices in Iwai et al. '522 are understood to generate a driving signal based on the detected vibration and position of the support leg 103, as described in column 3, lines 41-61. Iwai et al. '522 does not teach or suggest generating a driving signal based on information of a movable object which is supported by the table and movable relative to the table.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Iwai et al. '522 fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claim 16. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claim 16, is patentably defined over the cited art. Dependent claims 17-25 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claim 16. Further individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant further submits that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because

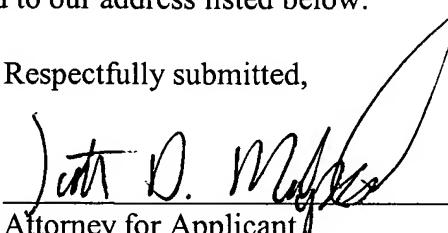
Applicant believed that the prior Amendment placed the application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 CFR 1.116.

Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are also requested.

Applicant's attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Scott D. Malpede
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
SDM/eab

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